

Memorandum

TO: Dave Bradley, Washington State Department of Ecology
Dawn Hooper, Washington State Department of Ecology

FROM: Sarah Hubbard-Gray, Hubbard Gray Consulting, Inc.
Elizabeth McManus, Ross and Associates

DATE: May 7, 2002

SUBJECT: Summary of Interviews with Task Force Members and Stakeholders

Summary of Interview Process and Findings

Over approximately six weeks, the contractor team conducted thirty-three interviews with Area-Wide Soil Contamination Task Force members and other stakeholders. Each interview was approximately one hour in length and covered a number of topics ranging from the interviewee's knowledge of widespread arsenic and lead contamination in soil to the interviewee's thoughts on project outcomes and priorities.

Although each interviewee was unique, there was remarkable commonality across interviews with respect to concerns about widespread arsenic and lead contamination and goals and objectives for the project. In particular, most interviewees expressed concerns about:

- Public health impacts of widespread arsenic and lead contamination, risks to general population and to sensitive subpopulations (especially children) and the ability to adequately understand and manage health risks.
- The ability to develop effective recommendations that can be implemented in a reasonable fashion and the availability of funding for local implementation of recommendations.
- The need for effective, factual communication and public education on issues so that the project does not prompt undue public alarm or outcry.
- The potential that increased knowledge of widespread arsenic and lead contamination could have adverse economic impacts, depress property values or have adverse affects on tourism, people moving to areas, or business development and the need to manage the project in a way that avoids such adverse effects.
- Potential implications for agriculture and sustainability of agriculture market and land values.

Some of the common goals expressed for the Area-Wide Soil Contamination project include:

- Interest in developing recommendations through consensus.
- Establishment of a range of practical solutions.
- Development of recommendations that match solutions to the problem and are implementable, reasonable, and useful.
- Development of recommendations that can be applied statewide, but can be adapted to meet local conditions and needs.
- Protection of land values and agricultural markets.